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SUMMARY STATEMENT.

Subject Considered.	Number of Cases.	Percent- age.	Basis of Percent- age.*
No previous desertions by husband	340	59.2	574
Length of absence 6 months or over	145	70.0	234
Children (in 574 families) under 5 years of age	476	28.6	1665
Children (in 574 families) under 14 years of age	1337	80.3	1665
Families without children	20	3.5	574
Families with 1, 2, or 3 children	382	66.6	574
Families with more than 3 children	172	29.9	574
Families with additional members of household	98	17.1	574
Husband and wife of same nationality	361	72.3	499
Husband and wife having same religious belief	363	80.9	449
Husband and wife with disparity of ages over 5 years	130	30.7	424
Husbands under 20 or over 29 years of age at time of marriage	119	34.6	344
Wives under 20 or over 29 years of age at time of marriage	147	40.6	362
Couples married less than 6 years at time of first desertion	137	46.0	298
Husbands under 30 years of age at time of first desertion	122	33.6	363
Husbands having bad habits ascribed to them	412	86.9	474
Husbands having intemperance ascribed to them	325	68.6	474
Husbands known to have had criminal records	70	12.2	574
Husbands who did not work regularly	265	46.2	574
Wives reported as "good" or "fair" housekeepers	307	53.5	574
Wives having bad habits ascribed to them	109	28.5	383
Wives who earned own living before marriage	298	51.9	574
Wives who helped earn family income after marriage	320	55.7	574
Desertion apparently chiefly fault of husband	245	63.5	386
Desertion apparently chiefly fault of wife	46	11.9	386
Desertion apparently matter of equal responsibility	52	13.5	386
Desertion apparently resulting from circumstances beyond control of both	43	11.1	386

II. *Family Desertion and Non-support Laws.* By William H. Baldwin, Washington, D.C. 136 pp., appendices and tables. 1904.

The difficulties experienced by the Associated Charities of Washington in their attempts to compel the husband to support his family led to this compilation of the laws of the different States relating to family desertion and non-support.

Mr. Baldwin opens the work by considering briefly the nature and extent of this growing twofold evil, and claims that, since it is due largely to the moral rather than the physical defect of the husband, it should be treated as a criminal offence, and that society, having an

* Number of cases for which information was furnished under specified subjects.

economic interest in the family, should punish not only family deserters, but all others as well who make no effort to support their families.

Mr. Baldwin finds that in forty-four of the fifty States and Territories there are laws making non-support a criminal offence, that Minnesota has provision for civil suit only, while Iowa, Nevada, Oregon, Tennessee, and Texas have no law on the subject. In four States the offence is a felony, and in the other forty States it is a misdemeanor. Recent legislation shows a tendency in the right direction, but as yet the State laws in most instances prove inadequate to meet the situation. By citing a number of instances where suit has been brought against the deserter, Mr. Baldwin shows the inadequacy of present laws, particularly as regards extradition. As desertion is not extraditable in many of the States, especially where the crime is not considered a felony, legal proceedings are seldom instituted against the offender. For this reason it is believed, as stated in the preamble to the resolution of the National Conference of Charities and Correction in 1903, "that the application of extradition to this class of family deserters will prove the most effective remedy and deterrent."

After further considering important provisions in existing laws of various States, Mr. Baldwin suggests some features that should be embraced in a good law, and submits as an appendix a suggested form for such a law.

The bulk of this monograph consists of a compilation of abstracts from the laws of the various States and Territories having special reference to the following points:—

The Definition of the Offence.
The State Laws as to Extradition.
The Competency of the Wife as a Witness.
Desertion or Neglect as Ground for Divorce.
The Provision for a Civil Suit for Maintenance.

The value of such a compendium for the use of students of the problem of desertion is obvious. In addition to the work already described, a form of inquiry covering twelve main features of the law was filled out for each State, and sent to some competent authority in each respective State for approval and correction. The form of inquiry follows:—

1. Does the offence come under Civil or Criminal Code?
2. Is the offence felony or misdemeanor, or how classified?
3. Does it relate to wife as well as to children?
4. Does it include neglect as well as desertion?

5. Must wife sue, or by whom may action be brought?
6. What is Lowest Court in which it may be brought?
7. Is wife a competent witness?
8. What is penalty?
9. Is there any provision for giving bond for support, and, if so, what?
10. Is the offence extraditable?
11. Is desertion or neglect ground for divorce?
12. Is there provision for civil suit?
13. Remarks.

The information thus obtained and authenticated was tabulated on a uniform basis, and the comparative statement appears with the appendix as two inserted broadsides. This complete presentation of the subject should be highly appreciated by those who require an understanding of the law, and who may be engaged in the worthy effort of *compelling* the irresponsible husband and father, whether deserter or not, to fulfil his *natural function* as provider for his family.

ROSWELL F. PHELPS.